

Amendments To The Claims

1. (*currently amended*) An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule that encodes serine protease T and has a nucleotide sequence corresponding to SEQ.ID.NO.:1 or SEQ.ID.NO.:8, and functional derivatives thereof.

2. (*currently amended*) The isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, having a nucleotide sequence corresponding to selected from a group consisting of: (SEQ.ID.NO.:1), (SEQ.ID.NO.8) and functional derivatives thereof.

3. (*canceled*).

4. (*currently amended*) An expression vector, wherein said vector contains a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence corresponding to SEQ.ID.NO.:1 or SEQ.ID.NO.:8 that encodes sequence encoding serine protease T having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ.ID.NO.:7 or SEQ.ID.NO.:9 protein, and functional derivatives thereof.

5. (*currently amended*) The expression vector of claim 4, wherein the ~~nucleic acid~~ nucleotide sequence corresponds to encoding protease T ~~protine is selected from a group consisting of (SEQ.ID.NO.:1), (SEQ.ID.NO.8) and functional derivatives thereof.~~

6. (*canceled*).

7. (*original*) A recombinant host cell containing the expression vector of claim 4.

8. (*currently amended*). The recombinant host of claim 7, wherein ~~said expression vector contains a nucleic acid~~ the nucleotide sequence of the nucleic acid molecule contained in the expression vector corresponds to selected from a group consisting of (SEQ.ID.NO.:1), (SEQ.ID.NO.8) and functional derivatives thereof.

9. (*canceled*).

10-13. (*canceled*).

14. (*currently amended*) A process for expression of serine protease T protein in a recombinant host cell, comprising:

(a) transferring an the expression vector of Claim 4 containing a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence corresponding to SEQ.ID.NO.:1 or

SEQ.ID.NO.:8 that encodes serine protease T having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ.ID.NO.:7 or SEQ.ID.NO.:9 into suitable host cells; and

(b) culturing the host cells of step (a) under conditions which allow expression of the serine protease T ~~protein~~ from the expression vector.

15-20. (*canceled*).

21. (*currently amended*) A kit comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from a group consisting of SEQ.ID.NO.:1 and SEQ.ID.NO.:8, nucleic acid sequence that encodes serine protease T ~~protein-according~~ having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ.ID.NO.:7, and fragments thereof.

22-27. (*canceled*).

28. (*new*) The isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, having a nucleotide sequence corresponding to SEQ.ID.NO.:8.

29. (*new*) The expression vector of claim 4, wherein the nucleotide sequence corresponds to SEQ.ID.NO.:8.

30. (*new*) The recombinant host of claim 7, wherein the nucleotide sequence of the nucleic acid molecule contained in the expression vector corresponds to SEQ.ID.NO.:8.